

CSM LEGAL, P.C.
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510
New York, New York 10165
Telephone: (212) 317-1200
Facsimile: (212) 317-1620
Attorneys for Plaintiff

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

-----X
EDUARDO RAMIREZ COYOTECALT,
*individually and on behalf of others similarly
situated,*

Plaintiff,

-against-

23RD & 9TH RESTAURANT CORP. (D/B/A
CHELSEA SQUARE RESTAURANT), JOHN
BOUMAKIS, and JOHN LAPSATIS,

Defendants.

-----X

COMPLAINT

**COLLECTIVE ACTION UNDER
29 U.S.C. § 216(b)**

ECF Case

Plaintiff Eduardo Ramirez Coyotecalt (“Plaintiff Ramirez” or “Mr. Ramirez”), individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, CSM Legal, P.C., upon his knowledge and belief, and as against 23rd & 9th Restaurant Corp. (d/b/a Chelsea Square Restaurant), (“Defendant Corporation”), John Boumakis and John Lapsatis, (“Individual Defendants”), (collectively, “Defendants”), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. Plaintiff Ramirez is a former employee of Defendants 23rd & 9th Restaurant Corp. (d/b/a Chelsea Square Restaurant), John Boumakis, and John Lapsatis.
2. Defendants own, operate, or control a diner, located at 368 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10011, under the name “Chelsea Square Restaurant”.

3. Upon information and belief, individual Defendants John Boumakis and John Lapsatis, serve or served as owners, managers, principals, or agents of Defendant Corporation and, through this corporate entity, operate or operated the restaurant as a joint or unified enterprise.

4. Plaintiff Ramirez was employed as a cook, dishwasher, and delivery worker at the restaurant located at 368 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10011.

5. Plaintiff Ramirez was ostensibly employed as a delivery worker. However, he was required to spend a considerable part of his work day performing non-tipped duties, including but not limited to cooking, preparing food, busboy duties, washing dishes, and working the counter (hereafter the “non-tipped duties”).

6. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff Ramirez worked for Defendants in excess of 40 hours per week, without appropriate minimum wage, overtime, and spread of hours compensation for the hours that he worked.

7. Rather, Defendants failed to maintain accurate recordkeeping of the hours worked and failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez appropriately for any hours worked, either at the straight rate of pay or for any additional overtime premium.

8. Further, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez the required “spread of hours” pay for any day in which he had to work over 10 hours a day.

9. Furthermore, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez wages on a timely basis.

10. In this regard, Defendants have failed to provide timely wages to Plaintiff Ramirez. Defendants employed and accounted for Plaintiff Ramirez as a delivery worker in their payroll, but in actuality, his duties required a significant amount of time spent performing the non-tipped duties alleged above.

11. Regardless, at all relevant times, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez at a rate that was lower than the required tip-credit rate.

12. However, under both the FLSA and NYLL, Defendants were not entitled to take a tip credit because Plaintiff Ramirez's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday, or 2 hours per day, whichever is less in each day. 12 N.Y. C.R.R. §146.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed the policy and practice of disguising Plaintiff Ramirez's actual duties in payroll records by designating him as a delivery worker instead of as a non-tipped employee. This allowed Defendants to avoid paying Plaintiff Ramirez at the minimum wage rate and enabled them to pay him at the tip-credit rate (which they still failed to do).

14. Defendants' conduct extended beyond Plaintiff Ramirez to all other similarly situated employees.

15. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Ramirez and other employees to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week without providing the minimum wage and overtime compensation required by federal and state law and regulations.

16. Plaintiff Ramirez now brings this action on behalf of himself, and other similarly situated individuals, for unpaid minimum and overtime wages pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* ("FLSA"), and for violations of the N.Y. Labor Law §§ 190 *et seq.* and 650 *et seq.* (the "NYLL"), and the "spread of hours" and overtime wage orders of the New York Commissioner of Labor codified at N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 12, § 146-1.6 (herein the "Spread of Hours Wage Order"), including applicable liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees and costs.

17. Plaintiff Ramirez seeks certification of this action as a collective action on behalf of himself, individually, and all other similarly situated employees and former employees of Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and the FLSA, and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff Ramirez’s state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

19. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) because all, or a substantial portion of, the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district, Defendants maintain their corporate headquarters and offices within this district, and Defendants operate a diner located in this district. Further, Plaintiff Ramirez was employed by Defendants in this district.

PARTIES

Plaintiff

20. Plaintiff Eduardo Ramirez Coyotecalt (“Plaintiff Ramirez” or “Mr. Ramirez”) is an adult individual residing in Bronx County, New York.

21. Plaintiff Ramirez was employed by Defendants at Chelsea Square Restaurant from approximately August 27, 2009, until on or about September 2017, and then from September 2019 until on or about October 2022.

22. Plaintiff Ramirez consents to being a party plaintiff pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and brings these claims based upon the allegations herein as a representative party of a prospective class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

Defendants

23. At all relevant times, Defendants owned, operated, or controlled a diner, located at 368 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10011 under the name “Chelsea Square Restaurant”.

24. Upon information and belief, 23rd & 9th Restaurant Corp. (d/b/a Chelsea Square Restaurant) is a domestic corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. Upon information and belief, it maintains its principal place of business at 368 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10011.

25. Defendant John Boumakis is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant John Boumakis is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant John Boumakis possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Ramirez, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

26. Defendant John Lapsatis is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant John Lapsatis is sued individually in his capacity as owner, officer and/or agent of Defendant Corporation. Defendant John Lapsatis possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, an ownership interest in Defendant Corporation, and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Ramirez, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Defendants Constitute Joint Employers

27. Defendants operate a diner located in a neighborhood in Manhattan.

28. Individual Defendants, John Boumakis and John Lapsatis, possess operational control over Defendant Corporation, possess ownership interests in Defendant Corporation, and control significant functions of Defendant Corporation.

29. Defendants are associated and joint employers, act in the interest of each other with respect to employees, pay employees by the same method, and share control over the employees.

30. Each Defendant possessed substantial control over Plaintiff Ramirez's (and other similarly situated employees') working conditions, and over the policies and practices with respect to the employment and compensation of Plaintiff Ramirez, and all similarly situated individuals, referred to herein.

31. Defendants jointly employed Plaintiff Ramirez (and all similarly situated employees) and are Plaintiff Ramirez's (and all similarly situated employees') employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.* and the NYLL.

32. In the alternative, Defendants constitute a single employer of Plaintiff Ramirez and/or similarly situated individuals.

33. Upon information and belief, Individual Defendants John Boumakis and John Lapsatis operate Defendant Corporation as either an alter ego of themselves and/or fail to operate Defendant Corporation as an entity legally separate and apart from themselves, by among other things:

- a) failing to adhere to the corporate formalities necessary to operate Defendant Corporation as a Corporation,

- b) defectively forming or maintaining the corporate entity of Defendant Corporation, by, amongst other things, failing to hold annual meetings or maintaining appropriate corporate records,
- c) transferring assets and debts freely as between all Defendants,
- d) operating Defendant Corporation for their own benefit as the sole or majority shareholders,
- e) operating Defendant Corporation for their own benefit and maintaining control over this corporation as a closed Corporation,
- f) intermingling assets and debts of their own with Defendant Corporation,
- g) diminishing and/or transferring assets of Defendant Corporation to avoid full liability as necessary to protect their own interests, and
- h) Other actions evincing a failure to adhere to the corporate form.

34. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Ramirez's employers within the meaning of the FLSA and New York Labor Law. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Ramirez, controlled the terms and conditions of employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for Plaintiff Ramirez's services.

35. In each year from 2017 to 2022, Defendants, both separately and jointly, had a gross annual volume of sales of not less than \$500,000 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level that are separately stated).

36. In addition, upon information and belief, Defendants and/or their enterprise were directly engaged in interstate commerce. As an example, numerous items that were used in the restaurant on a daily basis are goods produced outside of the State of New York.

Individual Plaintiff

37. Plaintiff Ramirez is a former employee of Defendants who ostensibly was employed as a delivery worker. However, he spent over 20% of each shift performing the non-tipped duties described above.

38. Plaintiff Ramirez seeks to represent a class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. 216(b).

Plaintiff Eduardo Ramirez Coyotecalt

39. Plaintiff Ramirez was employed by Defendants from approximately August 27, 2009, until on or about September 2017, and then from September 2019 until on or about October 2022.

40. Defendants ostensibly employed Plaintiff Ramirez as a delivery worker.

41. Although Plaintiff Ramirez ostensibly was employed as a deliver worker, he spent over 20% of each day performing non-tipped work throughout his employment with Defendants.

42. Plaintiff Ramirez regularly handled goods in interstate commerce, such as food and other supplies produced outside the State of New York.

43. Plaintiff Ramirez's work duties required neither discretion nor independent judgment.

44. Throughout his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff Ramirez regularly worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

45. Plaintiff Ramirez's schedule changed constantly throughout his employment. Plaintiff Ramirez's manager Aurelio would send him a text a couple of days or the day before with the schedule for the day. In addition, approximately four times per month he would have to cover other employees' shifts. The schedules listed below are the typical schedules Plaintiff Ramirez would work in a given period.

46. From approximately May 2017 until on or about August 2017, Plaintiff Ramirez usually worked from approximately 7:00 a.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., Saturday through Wednesday and from approximately 4:00 p.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday (typically 80 hours per week).

47. From approximately September 2019 until on or about January 2020, Plaintiff Ramirez usually worked from approximately 7:00 p.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday (typically 80 hours per week).

48. From approximately March 2020 until on or about June 2020, Plaintiff Ramirez usually worked from approximately 7:00 a.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday (typically 98 hours per week).

49. From approximately July 2020 until on or about May 2021, Plaintiff Ramirez usually worked from approximately 4:00 p.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday (typically 59 hours per week).

50. From approximately June 2021 until on or about October 2022, Plaintiff Ramirez usually worked from approximately 4:00 p.m. until on or about 11:00 p.m., Monday, from approximately 7:00 p.m. until on or about 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, from approximately 7:00 p.m. until on or about 1:00 a.m., Thursday, from approximately 7:00 p.m. until on or about 4:00 a.m., Friday, from approximately 7:00 p.m. until on or about 4:00 a.m., Saturday, and from approximately 9:00 p.m. until on or about 7:00 a.m., Sunday (typically 58 hours per week).

51. Throughout his employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez his wages in cash.

52. From approximately May 2017 until on or about August 2017, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez \$4.00 per hour.

53. From approximately January 2019 until on or about June 2020, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez \$5.00 per hour.

54. From approximately July 2020 until on or about July 2021, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez \$6.00 per hour.

55. From approximately July 2021 until on or about June 2022, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez \$7.00 per hour.

56. From approximately June 2022 until on or about October 2022, Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez \$7.50 per hour.

57. For approximately three weeks, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff Ramirez any wages for his work.

58. Plaintiff Ramirez was never notified by Defendants that his tips were being included as an offset for wages.

59. Defendants did not account for these tips in any daily or weekly accounting of Plaintiff Ramirez's wages.

60. Plaintiff Ramirez was not required to keep track of his time, nor to his knowledge, did the Defendants utilize any time tracking device such as punch cards, that accurately reflected his actual hours worked.

61. Defendants took improper and illegal deductions of Plaintiff Ramirez's wages; specifically, Defendants deducted from Plaintiff Ramirez's weekly wages for being late. In addition, Defendants deducted \$10 per pay week without specifying the reason.

62. No notification, either in the form of posted notices or other means, was ever given to Plaintiff Ramirez regarding overtime and wages under the FLSA and NYLL.

63. Defendants did not provide Plaintiff Ramirez an accurate statement of wages, as required by NYLL 195(3).

64. Defendants did not give any notice to Plaintiff Ramirez, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Ramirez's primary language), of his rate of pay, employer's regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).

65. Defendants required Plaintiff Ramirez to purchase "tools of the trade" with his own funds—including a bicycle and a vest.

Defendants' General Employment Practices

66. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Ramirez (and all similarly situated employees) to work in excess of 40 hours a week without paying him appropriate minimum wage, spread of hours pay, and overtime compensation as required by federal and state laws.

67. Plaintiff Ramirez was a victim of Defendants' common policy and practices which violate his rights under the FLSA and New York Labor Law by, *inter alia*, not paying him the wages he was owed for the hours he worked.

68. Defendants' pay practices resulted in Plaintiff Ramirez not receiving payment for all his hours worked, and resulted in Plaintiff Ramirez's effective rate of pay falling below the required minimum wage rate.

69. Defendants habitually required Plaintiff Ramirez to work additional hours beyond his regular shifts but did not provide him with any additional compensation.

70. Defendants required Plaintiff Ramirez and all other delivery workers to perform general non-tipped tasks in addition to their primary duties as delivery workers.

71. Plaintiff Ramirez and all similarly situated employees, ostensibly were employed as tipped employees by Defendants, although their actual duties included a significant amount of time spent performing the non-tipped duties outlined above.

72. Plaintiff Ramirez's duties were not incidental to his occupation as a tipped worker, but instead constituted entirely unrelated general restaurant work with duties, including the non-tipped duties described above.

73. Plaintiff Ramirez and all other tipped workers were paid at a rate that was lower than the lower tip-credit rate by Defendants.

74. However, under state law, Defendants were not entitled to a tip credit because the tipped worker's and Plaintiff Ramirez's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday (or 2 hours a day, whichever is less) (12 N.Y.C.R.R. § 146).

75. New York State regulations provide that an employee cannot be classified as a tipped employee on any day in which he or she has been assigned to work in an occupation in which tips are not customarily received. (12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§137-3.3 and 137-3.4). Similarly, under federal regulation 29 C.F.R. §531.56(e), an employer may not take a tip credit for any employee time if that time is devoted to a non-tipped occupation.

76. In violation of federal and state law as codified above, Defendants classified Plaintiff Ramirez and other tipped workers as tipped employees, and paid them at a rate that was lower than the lower tip-credit rate when they should have classified them as non-tipped employees and paid them at the minimum wage rate.

77. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Ramirez who received tips that Defendants intended to take a deduction against Plaintiff Ramirez's earned wages for tip income, as required by the NYLL before any deduction may be taken.

78. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Ramirez who received tips, that his tips were being credited towards the payment of the minimum wage.

79. Defendants failed to maintain a record of tips earned by Plaintiff Ramirez who worked as a delivery worker for the tips he received. Defendants willfully disregarded and purposefully evaded recordkeeping requirements of the FLSA and NYLL by failing to maintain accurate and complete timesheets and payroll records.

80. Defendants paid Plaintiff Ramirez his wages in cash.

81. Defendants failed to post at the workplace, or otherwise provide to employees, the required postings or notices to employees regarding the applicable wage and hour requirements of the FLSA and NYLL.

82. Upon information and belief, these practices by Defendants were done willfully to disguise the actual number of hours Plaintiff Ramirez (and similarly situated individuals) worked, and to avoid paying Plaintiff Ramirez properly for his full hours worked.

83. Defendants engaged in their unlawful conduct pursuant to a corporate policy of minimizing labor costs and denying employees compensation by knowingly violating the FLSA and NYLL.

84. Defendants' unlawful conduct was intentional, willful, in bad faith, and caused significant damages to Plaintiff Ramirez and other similarly situated former workers.

85. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ramirez and other employees with accurate wage statements at the time of their payment of wages, containing: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum

wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL §195(3).

86. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ramirez and other employees, at the time of hiring and on or before February 1 of each subsequent year, a statement in English and the employees' primary language, containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by New York Labor Law §195(1).

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION CLAIMS

87. Plaintiff Ramirez brings his FLSA minimum wage, overtime compensation, and liquidated damages claims as a collective action pursuant to FLSA Section 16(b), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of all similarly situated persons (the "FLSA Class members"), i.e., persons who are or were employed by Defendants or any of them, on or after the date that is three years before the filing of the complaint in this case (the "FLSA Class Period").

88. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Ramirez and other members of the FLSA Class were similarly situated in that they had substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay them the required minimum wage, overtime pay at a one and one-half their regular rates for work in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek under the FLSA, and willfully failing to keep records under the FLSA.

89. The claims of Plaintiff Ramirez stated herein are similar to those of the other employees.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA

90. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

91. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Ramirez's employers within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d). Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class Members), controlled the terms and conditions of their employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for their employment.

92. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.

93. Defendants constitute an enterprise within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203 (r-s).

94. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a).

95. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

96. Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA

97. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

98. Defendants, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1), failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class members) overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

99. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class members), overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

100. Plaintiff Ramirez (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK MINIMUM WAGE ACT

101. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

102. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Ramirez's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Ramirez, controlled the terms and conditions of his employment, and determined the rates and methods of any compensation in exchange for his employment.

103. Defendants, in violation of NYLL § 652(1) and the supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, paid Plaintiff Ramirez less than the minimum wage.

104. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ramirez the minimum wage was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

105. Plaintiff Ramirez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW YORK STATE LABOR LAW

106. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

107. Defendants, in violation of N.Y. Lab. Law § 190 *et seq.*, and supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez overtime compensation at rates of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

108. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ramirez overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

109. Plaintiff Ramirez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE SPREAD OF HOURS WAGE ORDER

OF THE NEW YORK COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

110. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

111. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Ramirez one additional hour's pay at the basic minimum wage rate before allowances for each day Plaintiff Ramirez's spread of hours exceeded ten hours in violation of NYLL §§ 650 *et seq.* and 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 146-1.6.

112. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Ramirez an additional hour's pay for each day Plaintiff Ramirez's spread of hours exceeded ten hours was willful within the meaning of NYLL § 663.

113. Plaintiff Ramirez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE NOTICE AND RECORDKEEPING

REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

114. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

115. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ramirez with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Ramirez's primary language), containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by NYLL §195(1).

116. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Ramirez in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE WAGE STATEMENT PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

117. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

118. With each payment of wages, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Ramirez with an accurate statement listing each of the following: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL 195(3).

119. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Ramirez in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

RECOVERY OF EQUIPMENT COSTS

120. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

121. Defendants required Plaintiff Ramirez to pay, without reimbursement, the costs and expenses for purchasing and maintaining equipment and "tools of the trade" required to perform his job, further reducing his wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL. 29 U.S.C. § 206(a); 29 C.F.R. § 531.35; N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 193 and 198-b.

122. Plaintiff Ramirez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES IN VIOLATION

OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

123. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though set forth fully herein.

124. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Ramirez's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651.

125. Defendants made unlawful deductions from Plaintiff Ramirez's wages; specifically, Defendants deducted from Plaintiff Ramirez's weekly wages for being late .

126. The deductions made from Plaintiff Ramirez's wages were not authorized or required by law.

127. Through their knowing and intentional efforts to take unauthorized deductions from Plaintiff Ramirez's wages, Defendants willfully violated NYLL, Article 6, §§ 190 *et seq.*, and supporting New York State regulations.

128. Plaintiff Ramirez was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE TIMELY PAYMENT PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW

129. Plaintiff Ramirez repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though set forth fully herein.

130. Defendants did not pay Plaintiff Ramirez on a regular weekly basis, in violation of NYLL §191.

131. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Ramirez in an amount to be determined at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Ramirez respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment against Defendants by:

(a) Designating this action as a collective action and authorizing prompt issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all putative class members apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to promptly file consents to be Plaintiffs in the FLSA claims in this action;

(b) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members;

(c) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members;

(d) Declaring that Defendants violated the recordkeeping requirements of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA with respect to Plaintiff Ramirez's and the FLSA Class members' compensation, hours, wages, and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

(e) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the FLSA were willful as to Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members;

(f) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage, overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable;

(g) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members liquidated damages in an amount equal to 100% of his damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the

FLSA as applicable pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);

(h) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Ramirez;

(i) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Ramirez;

(j) Declaring that Defendants violated the spread-of-hours requirements of the NYLL and supporting regulations as to Plaintiff Ramirez;

(k) Declaring that Defendants violated the timely payment provisions of the NYLL as to Plaintiff Ramirez;

(l) Awarding Plaintiff liquidated damages in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of wages shown to be untimely, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interests pursuant to NYLL §191(1)(a), 198;

(m) Declaring that Defendants violated the notice and recordkeeping requirements of the NYLL with respect to Plaintiff Ramirez's compensation, hours, wages and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

(n) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the NYLL and spread of hours wage order were willful as to Plaintiff Ramirez;

(o) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages, as well as awarding spread of hours pay under the NYLL as applicable

(p) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez damages for Defendants' violation of the NYLL notice and recordkeeping provisions, pursuant to NYLL §§198(1-b), 198(1-d);

(q) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez liquidated damages in an amount equal to one hundred

percent (100%) of the total amount of minimum wage, overtime compensation, and spread of hours pay shown to be owed pursuant to NYLL § 663 as applicable; and liquidated damages pursuant to NYLL § 198(3);

(r) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as applicable;

(s) Awarding Plaintiff Ramirez and the FLSA Class members the expenses incurred in this action, including costs and attorneys' fees;

(t) Providing that if any amounts remain unpaid upon the expiration of ninety days following issuance of judgment, or ninety days after expiration of the time to appeal and no appeal is then pending, whichever is later, the total amount of judgment shall automatically increase by fifteen percent, as required by NYLL § 198(4); and

(u) All such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Ramirez demands a trial by jury on all issues triable by a jury.

Dated: New York, New York

May 1, 2023

CSM LEGAL, P.C

By: /s/ Catalina Sojo, Esq.
Catalina Sojo [CS-5779517]
60 East 42nd Street, Suite 4510
New York, New York 10165
Telephone: (212) 317-1200
Facsimile: (212) 317-1620
Attorneys for Plaintiff

CSM Legal, P.C.

Employment and Litigation Attorneys

60 E 42nd Street, Suite 4510
New York, New York 10165

Telephone: (212) 317-1200
Facsimile: (212) 317-1620

catalina@csmlegal.com

December 7, 2022

BY HAND

TO: Clerk of Court,

I hereby consent to join this lawsuit as a party plaintiff.

(Yo, por medio de este documento, doy mi consentimiento para formar parte de la demanda como uno de los demandantes.)

Name / Nombre: Eduardo Ramirez Coyotecalt

Legal Representative / Abogado: CSM Legal, P.C.

Signature / Firma:



Date / Fecha: December 7, 2022